

SECRET**NO FOREIGN DISSEM**

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D.C.



REPLY TO
ATTN OF: AFNIEC

16 MAY 1967

SUBJECT: Appraisal of the Bombing of North Vietnam (U)

TO: Director, Defense Intelligence Agency

1. (S) Reference is made to the monthly report, subject as above, which is prepared and published jointly by the Defense Intelligence Agency and the Central Intelligence Agency. This publication amounts to a "report card" on the effects of air operations against North Vietnam. It is the major document which provides an overview addressed exclusively to air operations. While it apparently meets the requirements of the Secretary of Defense, as indicated in the Foreword, we believe that the report, with some modification, could be made more responsive and comprehensive without impairing its usefulness.

2. (S) The report, in its present form, is useful as background intelligence, but should include additional quantification of data and factual details concerning effects of air operations against the North Vietnamese. Specifically, we believe that with some modification the publication would be more meaningful within its terms of reference and more useful in the decision process. Suggested modifications include

- 1) a broadened statistical quantification,
- 2) expanded geographical coverage,
- 3) and exploitation of additional sources. Most important, an analytical approach which more directly relates statistical and analytical conclusions to impacts upon the war in South Vietnam is recommended.

Specific impacts on infiltration rates and trends, orders of battle, lines of communication, and resupply activities are examples. The attachments contain details of our recommendations and specific comments on the most recent report.

FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF

John E. Thomas
JOHN E. THOMAS, Major General, USAF
Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence

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1. Issues Recommended for Consideration (S-NF)
2. Specific Comments (S-NF)

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USAF review(s) completed.

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